

EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

East Providence City Hall

145 Taunton Avenue

East Providence, Rhode Island 02914

April 11, 2006

Open Session

Mr. Gouveia, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Four members were present: Robert Faria, David Medeiros, Mildred Morris, Antone Gouveia. Also present were Manuel Vinhateiro, Superintendent of Schools, Robert Silva, Esq. and Andrew Thomas, Esq.

A motion was made by Mr. Medeiros to move to Executive Session in accordance with RI General Laws, Section 42-46-5 (a) (1) Personnel, (a) (2) Litigation, seconded by Mrs. Morris. Vote 4-0.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a Moment of Silence were observed.

Record of Previous Meetings – A motion was made by Mr. Medeiros to approve the minutes of previous meetings, seconded by Mrs. Morris. Vote 5-0.

Chair's Report

Mr. John Butler, Student Council Liaison, presented a report regarding High School activities.

Showcase of Schools – Hennessey School and Oldham School presented.

Student Recognition - Mr. Richard Silva presented certificates to students who participated in the Academic Decathlon held on March 5, 2006. The team members and their coaches were congratulated by the School Committee.

Students from Riverside Middle School who participated in the Chain Reaction Machine Competition demonstrated their project which received a 1st Place Award. Mrs. Gendron, Robotics teacher, and her students were congratulated for their successes at the competition. Mr. Michael Almeida, Principal of Riverside Middle School was also present for the awards.

Mr. Frank DeVall, Principal of Martin Middle School recognized students from Martin Middle School for their success at the Robotics Park Competition. Mr. Hargraves, Robotics teacher, presented the names of students.

Mr. Gouveia thanked both principals, parents and students on behalf

of the School Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Faria to move back to Executive Session, seconded by Mrs. Morris.

Vote 4-0.

The School Committee returned to Open session. Motion by Mrs. Morris to return to open session, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Vote 4-0. A motion was made by Mr. Medeiros to seal the minutes of the Executive Session, seconded by Mrs. Morris. Vote 4-0.

Hearings - None

Reading of Communications

Mr. Charles Mello, addressed the School Committee regarding Civics Education. He felt that it should be mandatory for every High School student to be educated for one semester regarding local government. He would like to work with others in the community for East Providence to begin to have more citizen participation in order to build better citizenship in the community. Mr. Gouveia related that he would request that the Curriculum Director look into this matter, report back to the School Committee and then advise Mr. Mello

accordingly. His address is 8 David Street, Rumford, RI 02916. It was decided to place this item on the next agenda

Report of Superintendent and Staff

Budget Review – Mr. Vinhateiro related that he has been in constant communication with the Acting City Manager and the Auditor General's office to try to work out a compromise proposal to eliminate the potential for a deficit for the 2005-06 budget year. A Memorandum of Understanding has been written between the City Council and the School Committee. School Department Counsel, Mr. Robert Silva, explained that as a result of discussion between the two parties, the City Solicitor and his office, a joint effort has been worked out between the City Council and School Department so that fiscal year 05-06 budget issues can be resolved. Mr. Silva distributed copies of the agreement as a result of those discussions. The City Council will give final passage to the budget on April 18, 2006. The Memorandum of Understanding will complete the budget process and the School Department will be able to meet its obligations. Mr. Silva read the agreement and recommended that the School Committee adopt this Memorandum of Understanding and authorize the Superintendent to execute it. It is expected that the City Council will approve the Memorandum and the Acting City Manager will execute it on behalf of the City Council. Presumably on April 18th, the City Council will adopt a budget and set a tax rate.

Mr. Faria asked about the buy back issue and how long that could

take. Mr. Silva advised that the parties have the right to go directly to arbitration in order to receive a ruling. Depending on the type of action, it could take anywhere from a few months to a couple of years. Mr. Gouveia mentioned that the agreement needs to be adopted by the City Council in its totality. A motion was made by Mr. Medeiros to authorize the Superintendent to enter into this agreement with the City, seconded by Mr. Faria. Mrs. Morris had a concern with the City Council accepting only part of the agreement. Mr. Silva advised that the City Council would have to sign the Memorandum of Understanding in its entirety, if not, there would be no agreement. Mr. Faria commented that he was comfortable with Item #2 which stated that the City Council and the School Committee will jointly engage in whatever legal process may be required to define or enforce the action related to elimination of the health insurance buyback payments scheduled for June 2006. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mr. Gouveia, aye.

Personnel Recommendations – The following personnel items were presented by Diane Rodericks, Acting Human Resource Director:

Resignation

Sherry Jordan Secretary, Martin Middle School

Currently on Leave – 05-06 School year

Derek DeSousa Asst. Football Coach, High School

Motion: Mrs. Morris/Second: Mr. Medeiros. Vote 4-0.

Family & Medical Leave

Jodie Audet Teacher, Special Ed, Self-Contained, Orlo

Maternity Leave effective approx. 5/3/06

Motion: Mrs. Morris/Second: Mr. Medeiros. Vote 4-0.

Parental Leave

Amy Smith Teacher, Special Ed, Resource, High School

Effective 4/27/06 to end of school year

Motion: Mrs. Morris/Second: Mr. Medeiros. Vote 4-0.

Jodie Audet Teacher, Special Ed, Self-Contained, Orlo

2006-07 School Year

Motion: Mrs. Morris/Second: Mr. Medeiros. Vote 4-0.

Extended Personal Leave

Kevin O'Grady Teacher, Social Studies, Riverside M/S

2006-07 School Year

Motion: Mrs. Morris/Second: Mr. Medeiros. Vote 4-0.

Personal Leave of Absence

Jose DaSilva Maintenance, High School

One Year Leave, Effective 5/8/06

Motion: Mrs. Morris/Second: Mr. Medeiros. Vote 4-0.

Facilities Report – Mr. Harry Mutter, Director of Buildings and Grounds reported that during school vacation, lighting work will be started at Waddington and Riverside Middle School and work will be done on the wall at Orlo Avenue School. Mrs. Morris asked Mr. Mutter to look into poor lighting at the High School at the stage entrance near the tennis court.

Report of Sub-Committees

Family Involvement Committee – Mr. Medeiros advised that Earth Day activities will be held on April 29th. On April 12, 2006, a program on internet safety “Keeping Your Child Safe” will be held in response to recent concerns regarding MySpace.com. The School Department, Police Department and Family Involvement Team have held several meetings on this topic and will be sponsoring the event.

Mr. Faria asked for an update on the security committee. Mr. Rodericks reported that the group has been meeting weekly, have visited each school and are conducting code red drills. Training has been on-going. A report will be given at a later meeting.

Unfinished Business - None

New Business

East Bay Smiles Program is a school-based Dental Prevention

Program provided by the East Bay Community Action Program. The purpose of the program is to provide preventative dental care to children in grades K-5. Representatives of the program informed the School Committee requesting permission for a pilot program at two of our elementary schools beginning in May. After the initial pilot, the program will be in place throughout the elementary system. Dental cleanings and screenings will be done in our schools with family consent. A motion was made by Mrs. Morris to support the program, which was recommended by the Superintendent, seconded by Mr. Faria. Vote 4-0.

Reschedule May School Committee Meeting – After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Medeiros to reschedule the May 9th School Committee Meeting to May 17, 2004. Vote 4-0.

School Committee Benefits – Mr. Faria believes that because of tight budget constraints, healthcare benefits should be eliminated for elected officials. He asked that the School Committee set the example for the City Council and other School Committees; if we expect others to make strong decisions, the School Committee must take the lead on this issue. Motion by Mr. Faria to rescind health benefits for School Committee members, seconded by Mr. Gouveia for discussion. Mr. Gouveia would like to see it take effect at the end of the term of the present School Committee. Also, he asked that the School Committee postpone taking a vote until Mrs. Lovett is present at the next meeting. Motion withdrawn by Mr. Faria, second

withdrawn by Mr. Gouveia. Vote 4-0. After discussion, it was decided to table this item until the next meeting.

Payment of Bills

Local Operating Bill List

Warrant #000643 3/28/06 \$1,433,786.14

Motion: Mr. Medeiros/Second: Mrs. Morris. Vote 4-0.

Federal Bill List

Warrant #000639 3/16/06 \$ 198,385.62

Warrant #000640 3/16/06 \$ 7,708.00

Warrant #000645 4/5/06 \$ 148,422.77

Motion: Mr. Medeiros/Second: Mrs. Morris. Vote 4-0.

Question and Answer Period – Mr. Jack Fahey, Pawtucket Avenue, East Providence, requested a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding which was discussed earlier in the meeting. Attorney Robert Silva will provide him with a copy.

A motion was made to adjourn at 9:30PM by Mr. Medeiros, seconded by Mr. Faria. Vote 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Iannelli, Executive Secretary

David A. Medeiros, Clerk of the Committee